

## The Vestry Voice – June 2009

Welcome to the first issue of Vestry Voice for the 2009 / 2010 church year. This year the Voice will be adopting a slightly different format with the emphasis on keeping you, our valued parishioner; well informed about events happening in and around the cathedral. Indeed, improving the flow of information around the church is an area that the vestry is keen to address in the forthcoming year, more about that later.

Each vestry meeting is undertaken in roughly the same way: the rector opens with a bible reading and prayer, reports are heard from various members and committees, (most important of which are the finance and glebe reports), and then any other business is brought to light. Finally the vestry men and women share the Grace before leaving.

And this is the very format the Voice will adopt this year:

### 1. Opening word

Sam read for us from Acts 4 verses 8-31 on Healing and evangelism. Verse 31 sums up Peter's testimony and challenge to the early believers in Acts 4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly". A spare 10 minutes this evening could not be better spent than reading this passage from the Bible yourself.

### 2. Financial report

Please note that further financial details are available by contacting the treasurer Paul Bailie.

Our finances are continuing to improve:

- In April our income was £23,042 and our expenditure £19,250 giving a saving of £3,792.
- Our overdraft in May was approximately £39,000 which is a dramatic improvement from September 2008 when it was approximately £130,000.

Our Maxol investments have fallen approximately £200,000 in the last year to £150,000. We had planned to meet our million pound building programme from the Maxol Investments, (which may recover); the development of the rectory site and grants. Consequently we now have an opportunity to examine our giving and it would be very encouraging if we could clear our overdraft now, and then attempt to manage the building project without borrowing money.

### 3. Glebe report

The recent crane inspection of the Spire and Tower indicated that we need not remove the number of stones that was initially estimated. Whilst this is good news the costs will remain significant as the same amount of scaffolding will be needed to carry out the repairs.

Some photographs are currently available online on Graeme's personal blog at <http://fyrall.wordpress.com/2009/05/22/vestry-meeting/> and some will also be posted on the new vestry notice board, (see later). It is hoped that the full range of pictures will be available shortly.

#### 4. Staff news

Our new curate Simon Genoe joins the staff team from the end of June. We thank our year team for the past year: James Graham, Janine Dawson, and David Alanis for all their work and contributions to the church youth ministry. We will shortly be deciding on posts for next year.

#### 5. Any other business

- Town Centre Churches

Not long after the vestry Sam met with leaders from other churches in the town centre. The ministers are currently discussing ways that the various churches can seek to promote God's word in Lisburn and also to harmonise the various outreach projects being undertaken by each one. For example Lisburn Cathedral will be running a marriage course while another church will be taking on the Alpha course. This way we could effectively minister to Christians and non-Christians alike without duplicating our efforts.

Sam would value your continued prayer support particularly for this area.

- The Information Committee

This committee was formed to help improve communications between the vestry and congregation. It will be responsible for a number of initiatives including the Voice. We will be setting up a dedicated notice board near the information desk and will be looking to promote several new initiatives over the next few weeks.

- An information pack containing details of all clubs and organizations within the cathedral. We would request that organisations forward details about their group, including a nominated contact person, to the office. Sam has informed me that the cathedral will host a special welcome evening in September where packs will be given to all new members.
- A re-launch of our prayer calendar where important events can be pencilled in allowing members of the congregation to provide prayer support.
- An extended online presence including a cathedral specific blog.
- Support line for any parishioner considering mission.

And finally, in true vestry tradition, can we wish that the grace of God, the love of the Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.